

BEACH AND OCEAN SAFETY TIPS

The ocean is a wonderful playground. Avoid its dangers by understanding its ways and being strong enough to enjoy it safely. Take swimming lessons.



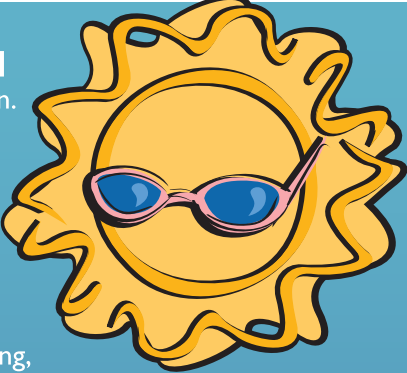
1. Avoid Rip Currents - Stay away from rock jetties and piers
2. Swim Near A Lifeguard
3. Never Swim Alone
4. Do Not Dive in Headfirst
5. Obey Warning Signs and Flags
6. Take Sun and Heat Precautions
 - protective clothes, non-alcoholic fluids, hats, and sunglasses

STINGS BITES AND CUTS

Stinging jellyfish abound the Gulf waters and randomly sting whatever they touch. The most dangerous stinging jelly is the Portuguese man-o-war; a community of animals called zooids. This most obvious zooid is a purple float with its tentacles dangling in the water. Lifting the tentacle from the skin and dousing the area with vinegar brings relief. A paste of meat tenderizer and vinegar applied to the stings will counteract the toxin. Do not rub the area with sand – this will only ensure that all the stinging cells fire. And remember just because the man-o-war or jellyfish is washed up on the beach does not mean that you are safe.

EFFECTS OF HEAT & SUN

Protect yourself against sunburn. You can become sunburned even on cloudy or overcast days. Ultraviolet rays are harmful to the skin, regardless of the color of that skin. You should wear a high SPF sunscreen (15 or higher); wear loose fitting light colored clothing, hat & sunglasses. Also, drink plenty of non-alcoholic, caffeine free liquid to prevent dehydration.



GALVESTON WHEELCHAIR AVAILABILITY

The Galveston Sheriff's Office Beach Patrol, in conjunction with the Park Board of Trustees, has secured 11 new beach wheelchairs through a grant from the Texas General Land Office. These chairs are designed for use on the thick sand. Our goal is to make these chairs available to the beach going public as a community service. The Galveston Sheriff's Office Beach Patrol is honored to assist with making the beach accessible to those that would not otherwise be able to enjoy a day on the beach.

Beach wheelchairs are available at Apffel Park, Stewart Beach Park, the west-end Pocket Parks and at various locations along the Seawall. A valid driver's license will be held in deposit for use of a chair by the lifeguard in the area. Due to limited availability, chairs may only be used in the designated areas.

The chairs are available for use starting Memorial Day Weekend until Labor Day Weekend. The chairs are available free of charge on a first come first serve basis. We regret that reservations can not be honored for beach wheelchairs.

For more information contact The Galveston Sheriff's Office Beach Patrol @ 409/763-4769.



RECOGNIZE THE SAFETY FLAG COLORS

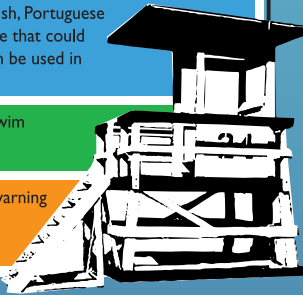
YELLOW Indicates caution should be used when entering any body of water. This flag is flown for normal conditions to remind swimmers to stay alert.

RED Flown when conditions are determined to be out of the ordinary, such as presence of strong wind, strong current or large surf. Adult swimmers should stay in water no more than waist deep and non-swimmers and children should be kept along the surf line.

BLUE Indicates a potential problem with jellyfish, Portuguese man-o-war, stingrays or other marine life that could be a hazard for swimmers. Blue flags can be used in combination with other flags.

GREEN Indicates conditions are calm and swim with care.

ORANGE TRIANGLE Indicates an environmental warning for air and/or water quality. See notice board for details.



EMERGENCY NUMBERS AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Emergency	9-1-1
Galveston Beach Patrol	(409) 763-4769
Galveston Park Board	
Main Number	(409) 797-5000
East Beach	(409) 797-5111
Stewart Beach	(409) 797-5182
Dellanera Park	(409) 797-5102
All Pocket Parks	(409) 797-5102
Galveston Department of Planning and Community Development	(409) 797-3660
Public Works	
Beach Maintenance	(409) 797-3630
Turtle Sightings	1 (866) TURTLES
The University of Texas Medical Branch Hospital Emergency Room	(409) 772-1521

Camping and Campfires are prohibited on all beaches.

Please observe no-swimming signs and lifeguard flag warnings at all times. See chart above.

The mission for the City of Galveston Division of Planning is to provide the general public and city with information and guidance, in order to lead to effective and responsible future land development and economic growth, through neighborhood revitalization, coastal planning, economic development, historic preservation, as well as long range and comprehensive planning.

GALVESTON ISLAND



THE OFFICIAL GUIDE FOR ISLAND BEACH ACCESS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



Park hours and entrance fees may vary and will be posted at each park entrance. "Seasonal Access" means vehicle access/driving is only permitted during designated times of the year. Vehicles are prohibited on the beach from 6:00 PM Friday to 6:00 PM Sunday during the month of March, Memorial Day through Labor Day, and all legal holidays. "Restricted Access" designates the beach is open to vehicles throughout the year only as a special use area for persons with disabilities, saltwater fishermen and the launching of non-motorized personal watercraft. The beach is accessible to pedestrians from the public beach easement and/or adjacent parking areas.



This brochure was funded through a grant from the Texas Coastal Management Program, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Department of Commerce as administered by the Texas General Land Office.